

REMARKS

The remarks below respond to the Office Action mailed August 23, 2004.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

With this response claims 1, 6, and 10 have been amended; claims 4, 5, 12, 13, and 15-20 are cancelled; and claims 21-23 are added. Claims 1-3, 6-11, 14, and 21-23 remain in the application for consideration.

The above claim amendments are submitted with the following remarks to be fully responsive to the Official Action dated August 23, 2004. It is further submitted that this response is timely filed within the three-month shortened-statutory period. Accordingly, no fee for an extension of time is believed necessary. Should any additional fee be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Kagan Binder Deposit Account No. 50-1775 and thereafter notify us of the same. Reconsideration of all outstanding grounds of the rejection and allowance of the subject application are believed in order and respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-4, 15, 16, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ordway.

Independent claim 1 is currently amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 5, which has been identified as allowable by the Examiner, and is believed allowable as currently amended. Claims 2 and 3 depend from currently amended claim 1 and are believed allowable at least in that claims 2 and 3 further limit claim 1. Claim 4 is cancelled by this amendment and the rejection thereof is moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of record and allowance of claims 1-3 are respectfully requested.

Claims 15, 16 and 19 are cancelled by this amendment and the rejection thereof is moot.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 10, 11, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ordway in view of Toso.

Independent claim 10 is currently amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 13, which has been identified as allowable by the Examiner, and is believed allowable as

currently amended. Claim 11 depends from currently amended claim 10 and is believed allowable at least in that claim 11 further limits claim 10. Claim 17 is cancelled.

Dependent claims 9, 12, 18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ordway in view of Perkins.


Claim 9 depends from currently amended claim 1 as discussed above and is believed allowable at least in that claim 9 further limits claim 1. Claims 12, 18, and 20 are cancelled by this amendment and the rejection thereof is moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of record of and allowance of claim 9 is respectfully requested.

New Claims

By this amendment, new claims 21-23 are submitted and believed allowable as presented. In particular, new claim 21 recites the subject matter of dependent claim 7, identified as allowable by the Examiner and which is presented in independent form. New claim 22 recites the subject matter of dependent claim 8, identified as allowable by the Examiner and which is presented in independent form. New claim 23 recites the subject matter of dependent claim 14, identified as allowable by the Examiner and which is presented in independent form. Allowance of claims 21-23 is thus believed proper and respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, at the Examiner's convenience, should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication or the present patent application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dated: Nov. 23, 2004

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